



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY



MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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**PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES PRE-LANDFALL EMERGENCY
DECLARATION**

Governor Patrick's Request for Assistance for the Commonwealth Swiftly Granted by President Obama

BOSTON, MA – Saturday August 27, 2011 - The Patrick-Murray Administration today announced that his request for a Pre-Fall Emergency Declaration for Hurricane Irene has been granted by President Barak Obama.

The Declaration will enhance the state's preparations for the storm by authorizing the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measure, to protect public health and safety and property, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the Commonwealth.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to provide emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program at 75 percent federal funding. This assistance is for the entire state.

"I thank President Obama for granting this declaration so promptly and providing critical federal resources to help the Commonwealth prepare and respond to this potentially damaging storm," said Governor Patrick.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is the state agency responsible for coordinating federal, state, local, voluntary and private resources during emergencies and disasters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. MEMA provides leadership to: develop plans for effective response to all hazards, disasters or threats; train emergency personnel to protect the public; provide information to the citizenry; and assist individuals, families, businesses and communities to mitigate against, prepare for, and respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and man-made. For additional information about MEMA, go to www.mass.gov/mema. Continue to follow MEMA on *Twitter* and *Facebook*.